

CLOVER AS A PREPARATION FOR WHEAT, &c.

To the Editor of the Agriculturist.

Oakland Farm, Warwick, June 25, 1853.

SIR,—I am sorry none of your readers have taken the trouble to give your London subscriber the information he desires in the *Agriculturist* of April, although I am convinced a very great number of them could do so if they chose. I shall endeavor to give him my plan, which I have practiced for thirty years in Canada, and I saw the same course followed by the best farmers in East Lothian, and by the Tweed side and Teviotdale farmers. As I leased land both from the Marquis of Tweeddale and in Roxburghshire, for twenty years before. I have never given but two acres a naked fallow in Canada. I sow my fall wheat always on clover soil, and my crops have advanced from ten bushels per acre on new land after Peas, without manure of any kind other than a few leached ashes to twenty-two bushels the first time on clover sod, and I anticipate an increase of from six to eight bushels every time its turn arrives in the rotation, for years to come. The course I have adopted with success, is the following, viz:—

First year potatoes, second barley seeded down with clover alone, and sown in the chaff, a two bushel bag to the acre; third, clover, cut the first crop about the 18th June, second crop seed; fourth, clover, cut the first about the 22nd June, plough down the second crop about the middle of August. Roll and sow wheat about the first of September; manure. Before sowing potatoes and wheat, I wash them in stale chamber ley and dry with lime, sow immediately. I never have one ball of smut. My land is generally Oak clay and requires two yoke of heavy cattle to plough it the first time, and I have never found much difficulty in ploughing down clover sod for my wheat in the driest season, with an ordinary team. I never sow timothy among clover when I intend to sow wheat; when I plough it down, as several experiments that I have tried have proved to my satisfaction that it does injury to the wheat; but when I sow timothy, it is in the other five years rotation I adopt, when I find it of immense value in increasing the weight of the hay crop; which is corn, oats, clover, and timothy, peas, wheat and begin with potatoes again in the other. It will be seen I have a crop of wheat once in five years, while I have a crop of the others only once in ten years on the same land, while the land is properly cleaned and pulverized every fifth year, as well as being manured twice in five years. But I give the corn and peas a deal more dung than the potatoes and wheat; since the rot began, potatoes cannot suffer so much, and who does not know that over rank wheat never matures a plump berry?

Before I conclude, I beg leave to say a few words to Mr. *Tenant Farmer*. I am astonished he has never seen any difference in sowing clover with different kinds of grain. I have sown it with barley, potatoes, oats, and spring wheat, on land that was with potatoes the year before. I mowed a good crop of grass after the barley was harvest-

ed, that after the oats showed a good deal of blossom, while that after the wheat appeared doubtful whether it would be a crop at all.

When it is intended to make the second crop of clover, seed immediately after it is cut, no matter whether the weather is wet or dry, in order to start the seed crop, it is of great benefit to empty the liquid manure tanks on the stable; its effects are surprising, indeed I think it is perhaps the only way it can be used to show its real advantage that I have had an opportunity of seeing it applied.

I have written these few remarks from experience, with the desire to benefit those who may wish to avail themselves of adopting the same.

T. S

[We shall be happy to hear again from our correspondent on such matters as have come within the range of his extended observation and experience.—*Editor*.]

THRASHING AND PREPARING CLOVER FOR SEED.

To the Editor of the Canadian Agriculturist.

DEAR SIR,—Having in a former communication made some remarks on the growth of Clover for seed, I now proceed to the cutting and securing of the crop, and to the preparation of the seed for market. If the first crop of Clover was cut in proper season, the second will generally ripen about, or soon after, the 20th of September; mine is generally ripe by the time I have got fairly done with sowing fall wheat. I believe that in some parts of the country they have machines for cutting and gathering the heads of clover in the field, but never having seen any of them, I can only state the method I have pursued.

As soon as the seed is ripe (which is easily ascertained by rubbing out a few heads), it is best to mow it as soon as possible, both to prevent waste in the seed, and there is a better chance for good weather the earlier it is cut. Where one has not barn room and is obliged to stack it out, it is desirable to cut it all as soon as possible, so that the clover may all be ready for the stack at once; but where there is room in the barn, it can be cut and drawn in as most convenient.

Should the crop prove a heavy one, it is often badly laid down, which makes it hard to mow and dry, and when thus laid the seed is seldom so plump and bright a colour as when the crop stands up. When the crop is light and ripe it can be secured in a few days, but when the crop is heavy and the weather bad, it is a rather tedious job to secure clover seed in proper condition. When the weather is favourable, I actually turn the clover over in the swarth to dry properly, and then gather out of the swarth with pitchforks on to the waggon, raking the ground over afterwards with a horse rake. If the crop is very short and light, it has to be raked by hand, as it is impossible in that case to gather it clean with a horse rake. The Clover ought to be as dry as possible before it is gathered, as when well dried it greatly facilitates the thrashing and cleaning afterwards.

Clover should be tossed about as little as possible, as there is a great waste in such a practice,